that 5/6 persons are lying injured near Tara Apartment. Police be sent.

Reopening of closed jute mills in West Bengal

309. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of jute mills are being closed in West Bengal;

(b) if so, what is the number thereof as on 1st July, 1987 and how many workers have been thrown out of job on this account;

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to reopen these mills; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There were 18 jute mills lying closed in West Bengal as on 1st July, 1987 affecting about 68,900 workers.

(c) and (d) Under the Industrial Disputes Act, the State Government is the appropriate authority for dealing with matters pertaining to industrial disputes and as such it is for them to take appropriate action in the matter. Necessary assistance in this regard is always extended by the Central Government.

Strike in the jute industry

310. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the Central trade unions in jute industry have decided to observe a strike on July 23, 1987 to press for the immediate reopening of closed and locked out mills and for their nationalisation by the Centre; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Union Government to avert the strike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Industrial Disputes Act, the State Government is the appropriate authority for dealing with matters pertaining to industrial disputes and as such it is for them to take appropriate action in the matter.

In so far as the question of nationalisation of jute mills is concerned, it may not resolve the problems of jute industry. Instead Government have been taking various measures from time to time to deal with each of the various aspects of the problems in the jute industry.

Unearthing of illegal arms factories

311. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of illegal arms factories have been unearthed recently in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how many persons have been apprehended in this connection; and